

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 01139 130723Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8927

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: STOLEN DYNAMITE RECOVERED IN BALUCHISTAN

REF: KARACHI 940

1. BALUCHISTAN POLICE CONFIRMED JUNE 11 REPORTS APPEARING EARLIER IN VERNACULAR PRESS THAT LARGE CACHE OF STOLEN DYNAMITE HAD BEEN RECOVERED IN BALUCHISTAN. ACCORDING TO ITEM IN JULY 12 "DAILY NEWS", BALUCHISTAN INSPECTOR OF POLICE ANISUR ARIF REHMAN EXHIBITED TO QUETTA NEWSMEN 3,061 ELECTRIC DETONATORS AND 4,767 STICKS OF DYNAMITE, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "ENOUGH TO BLOW UP THE ENTIRE BALUCHISTAN" (SIC). REHMAN SAID THAT EXPLOSIVES, STOLEN LAST MARCH FROM PUBLIC-SECTOR COALMINES AT DEGARI, FORTY MILES FROM QUETTA, HAD BEEN RECOVERED FROM CAVE IN KOH-I-MURDAR (LITERALLY "MOUNTAIN OF DEATH") ONLY TWO MILES FROM PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. ONE ARREST HAD BEEN MADE AND MORE ARE EXPECTED. REHMAN REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT REORGANIZATION OF POLICE UNDER HIS DIRECTION HAD ENABLED AUTHORITIES TO DEFEAT DESIGNS OF THOSE TRAINED IN SABOTAGE IN AFGHANISTAN. BALUCHISTAN CHIEF MINISTER JAM MIR GHULAM QADIR KHAN PROMISED PROMOTIONS AND RS. 10,000 (\$1,000) REWARD TO 14-MAN POLICE PARTY WHICH DISCOVERED DYNAMITE.

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PAGE 02 KARACH 01139 130723Z

2. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, FORMER BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR AKBAR KHAN BUGTI, SARDAR OF LARGEST BALUCHI TRIBE, WAS CALLED TO LAHORE TO MEET PRIME MINISTER JUNE 9. BUGTI LATER TOLD JOURNALISTS HE HAD CONFIRMED TO BHUTTO THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN HIS DERA BUGTI STRONGHOLD FOR HARBORING A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE, AS SOME PRESS ITEMS HAD ALLEGED LAST WEEK. BUGTI OPINED THAT "PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION" WAS CONTINUING IN BALUCHISTAN AND THAT SITUATION WAS NOT AS SERIOUS AS LAST YEAR, SINCE MOST GUERRILLAS HAD GONE TO AFGHANISTAN. NONETHELESS, BUGTI NOTED EARLIER RECOVERY OF CACHED ARMS (REFTEL) AND CONTAINING PRESENCE OF FREE AND ACTIVE GUERRILLAS IN HILLS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE CONGEN KARACHI SOURCES ARE NEAR-UNANIMOUS IN VIEW THAT ANTI-GOP GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN BALUCHISTAN HILLS HAS BEEN ALL BUT COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED BY ARMY, RECOVERY OF CACHES AND COMMENTS OF WELL-INFORMED BUGTI SERVE TO REMIND OBSERVERS THAT THERE IS CONTINUING LOW LEVEL OF TRIBAL DISSIDENCE (AS WELL AS OF OLD-FASHIONED DACOITY) WHICH, WHILE NOT PARTICULARLY WORRISOME, PROBABLY CANNOT BE FURTHER REDUCED BY MILITARY MEANS. CONGEN AND VISITING DEPT. OFFICER (NEA/PAB) PLAN VISIT QUETTA JUNE 23-25 AND WILL SEEK TO ERUCIDATE FURTHER DETAILS ON SECURITY SITUATION THERE.
TIGER

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